Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

Hazard Identification and MSDS Deficiencies

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Hazard Identification

- Critical to any safety program
- Effects of not identifying hazards
 - Safety program will not work
 - Hazard cannot be mitigated
 - Workers put at risk
- Effects of "Identifying" nonexistent hazards
 - Consumes valuable resources for no reason
 - Impose restrictions that can slow work and increase costs



Traditional Method of Identifying Hazards

- Consult MSDS or safety book/ manual
- Not efficient method
 - Errors in written documentation (primarily MSDSs)
 - Error rate studied and documented
 - Errors both major and minor
 - Local safety information not present
 - Requires interpretation



Hazard Identification at the INEEL

- Very important issue
 - Improper hazard identification is the root cause to many observed deficiencies
- Need to control hazard identification process
 - Prevent misinformation from being generated
- Need to control hazard identification information
 - Required to ensure data integrity
 - Information needs to be freely available



Performing Hazard Identification at the INEEL

- Need right people
 - Need organization to "own" the process
 - Chemical and Property Management Dept.
 - Need people with in depth knowledge of chemistry
 - HazMat training a big plus
 - Knowledge of regulations and intent a big plus



Performing Hazard Identification (con't)

- Developed evaluation criteria and process
 - Define what hazards are to be evaluated
 - Allows prioritization of hazards and ensures none are overlooked
 - Criteria needed to ensure hazard determinations consistent
 - Process required to ensure consistency throughout



Performing Hazard Identification (con't)

- Need resources
 - MSDSs are a starting point
 - Use other reference materials
 - People resources
 - Technical experts
 - Lawyers
 - MSDS people



Information Management at the INEEL

- Using existing computerized chemical management system
- Place hazard identification information in Chemical Data Summary Sheet
 - Available over Intranet for all to use
 - Provided in read only format
 - Available for over 20,200 chemicals and chemical products



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